THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 25th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE HON. SPEAKER.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" On a point of order, Sir. Why is the arrival of the Hon Speaker not ceremoniously announced now as it used to be done in the past? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Secretary announced it. Probably it was not heard by the hon. Member."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the hon. Member refers to the announcement that used to be made in the corridor when the Hon. Speaker was coming to the Chamber."

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Conference of Police officers of coastal Andhra districts.

* 212 *Q.*—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a conference of the Police chiefs of coastal Andhra districts at Vijayavada, recently with the Inspector-General of Police and concerned Deputy Inspector-General participating ;

(*b*) what was the agenda of the conference ;

(*c*) whether this holding of conferences of Police chiefs of a group of districts is a feature only in coastal Andhra districts or is it a feature of groups of districts of other regions of the State ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the consideration of the *modus operandi* of putting down the democratic elements in Andhra public life was one of the items of the agenda ; and

(*e*) whether the Government will state the decisions arrived at by the conference?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) Yes, a conference was held at Eluru and not at Vijayavada. The holding of conferences of police officers of each range is an annual feature for discussing administrative and crime matters and for exchange of views. This is not peculiar to the coastal Andhra districts. The increase in crime in certain districts of the Northern Range was particularly discussed at the conference referred to in the question.

" (*d*) The answer is definitely in the negative. The Government do not desire to put down democracy but wish to deal with crime as defined and made punishable in the Penal Code.

"(e) That special measures should be taken for the check and successful handling of crime in the districts by intensifying patrols."

SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" Sir, clause (d) of the question is 'Whether it is a fact that the consideration of the *modus operandi* of putting down the democratic elements in Andhra public life was one of the items of the agenda'. May I know the names of the democratic elements referred to therein?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The phrase occurs in clause (d) of the question. How can I help the hon. Member, Sir, in that respect?"

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister whether the conference discussed about the various police camps that had been installed in the Andhra area from the year 1948 to 1952 and about disbanding them at least in the year 1952?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I have given all the information that I can possibly give with regard to what took place in the conference. If the hon. Member knows more about it than I do, then he should use his own information."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to tell us in which district the number of crimes is the largest and in which district the number of police camps is the largest?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" If that particular information is wanted, I should prefer to have definite notice."

SRI K. SUBBA REDDI :—" Was it also one of the items on the agenda that the Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors were pressing and forcing the villagers for sentry work in villages, especially in Palnad and, if so, will the Government stop such sentry work?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I have not been able to follow the hon. Member. Is his question intended to mean this? Was it decided or discussed in that conference that Police Inspectors should compel the villagers to accept sentry work? If the hon. Member interprets the demand by certain villages for policemen to be there in this manner, he is entitled to put that interpretation."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" I will just explain the question, Sir. The question was whether the policemen were pressing the people to do sentry duty and whether the conference discussed that item?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I take it that the question is whether the police have a programme of calling upon the villagers to do sentry duty. I am not sure about it, but I think it would be a good thing."

10-40 a.m. SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, why the police should show partiality to the people of the Andhra in preference to people in other regions?" (Laughter.)

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It is mutual accommodation."

SRI M. BAPAIAH CHOWDARY :—" May I know if at this conference it was decided to post additional Sub-Inspectors to each of the coastal districts in the Andhra area ; if so, for what purpose were they posted? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The holding of the conference was, as I said, to exchange views about the police administration in general and in particular with reference to the area where this particular annual conference was held. If hon. Members attribute every administrative step that was taken subsequent to that conference to the discussions at that conference, they are likely to go wrong. Ordinarily many steps are taken, but what was discussed then must have been general policy matters. In any case, I do not think such matters can be dealt with in answer to questions. If hon. Members have any particular grievance or suggestion with regard to administrative matters, I am prepared to consider."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I know from the Hon. Chief Minister whether it is a fact that after this conference was held, there were innumerable police raids in the villages, villagers were arrested, taken to the police station and let off without their even being produced before the Magistrate? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" This is a continuous issue between the Opposition and me. On the one side, it is maintained that the police take the initiative in oppression in a number of cases and that the people's discontent is the sequel; on the other side, it is contended by the Government that any raid that the police make is the consequence of a previous crime and disturbance."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know whether such conferences are usually held in the southern ranges of this State? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am sorry, the hon. Leader of the Opposition did not follow my primary answer. This conference was held at Eluru. The holding of conferences of police officers for each range is an annual feature."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. the Chief Minister. The point that I wanted to bring to his notice was that after this conference was held, there were innumerable raids on the villages and people were arrested, brought to the police station and released without being produced before a Magistrate. If it is a fact, will the Government see that such illegal acts are stopped in the future? ".

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" If the hon. Member grants that there were no raids before or there were much less raids before, to that extent I feel greatly relieved by their present attitude. If any person complains of illegal action or illegal imprisonment, it will be looked into."

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SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" I am glad the Hon. the Chief Minister conceded that after the conference took place, raids took place—I emphasise the word ' raid '. Might I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister whether it is the duty of the police to go to the spot and investigate crimes where crimes had taken place or to conduct raids on villages if crime is alleged to have been committed? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am glad that we are getting to be precise with our language. The word ' raid ' has been used all through and I also used the word for the sake of convenience. I quite agree that there should be no ' raid ', but investigation is often called ' raid '."

Representations received from the Ryots' Association, Pattukkottai taluk.

* 213 *Q.*—SRI S. VENKATARAMA IYER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether representations have been received from the Ryots' Association and the Congress Panchayatdars' Conference, Pattukkottai taluk, requesting to revise the orders issued in the Governmnt Communiqué, dated 9th June 1952, regarding the levy of land revenue in the recently abolished inam and zamin villages taken over by the Government in Pattukkottai and Arantangi taluks ;

(*b*) what action has been taken on the representations; and

(*c*) whether the Government will stay the collection of such enhanced land revenue pending final orders in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes. Several such representations have been received.

" (*b*) The representations are under the consideration of the Government.

" (*c*) The Government see no need to take such action."

SRI S. VENKATARAMA IYER :—" Will the Government be pleased to see that the levy of the highest rate of Rs. 16-10-0 per acre is unjust and inequitable and the assessment rate in the villages taken over should be the same as in the ryotwari villages in the neighbourhood."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I said that the whole thing was under the consideration of the Government."

JANAB MAHAMED SALIH MARAIKAYAR :—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to say whether it is just and legal to levy ryotwari assessment on private lands in inam villages which were hitherto paying only a quit rent of annas eight or twelve per acre, without paying any compensation? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Is the hon. Member referring to Pattukkottai taluk? "